

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01

ABF-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 AF-10 EA-11 /137 W

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R 231943Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 988

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

USUSN NEW YORK 523

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7322

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: EFOR UNRWA

SUBJECT: UNRWA FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

REF: A. STATE 139487; B. CARACAS 4508

1. THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR CONVOKED A MEETING OF OUR LOCAL WORKING GROUP THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS TACTICS IN APPROACH TO VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT FOR A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA.

2. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ADMITTED FRANKLY THAT DEMARCHE UNDERTAKEN LAST YEAR AS DESCRIBED REF B HAD BEEN A COMPLETE FIASCO. IN AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE ON LEAVE, TURKISH CHARGE WAS UNABLE TO GET AN AUDIENCE WITH ANYONE HIGHER THAN TREJO (DIRECTOR OF UN AFFAIRS) AND GOT THE NEGATIVE RESPONSE INDICATED. OUR GROUP THIS MORNING AGREED WITH MY SUGGESTION THAT
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NO ONE LESS THAN FONMIN CALVANI HIMSELF SHOULD BE APPROACHED,

AND THAT THE TIMING WAS RIGHT SINCE CALVANI WOULD PROBABLY GO TO UNGA NEXT MONTH. TO TURKISH AMBASSADOR'S OBJECTION THAT IT WAS EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO GET AN APPOINTMENT WITH CALVANI, I SAID THAT BY CHANCE I WAS CALLING THIS AFTERNOON ON PEREZ CHIRIBOGA, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS, TO PRESENT MY NEW COUNSELORS AND WOULD BE GLAD, IF THE COMMITTEE SO WISHED, TO SAY THAT I WOULD PERSONALLY APPRECIATE THE WORKING GROUP'S REPRESENTATIVES BEING RECEIVED BY THE FONMIN BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK.

3. IT WAS AGREED THAT INSTEAD OF THE ENTIRE COMMITTEE CALLING ON CALVANI, THE AMBASSADORS OF TURKEY, NORWAY, LEBANON AND JAPAN WOULD REPRESENT THE FULL COMMITTEE AND WOULD LEAVE A MEMORANDUM SETTING FORTH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP. I SAID I WOULD ASSOCIATE MYSELF IN WRITING WITH THAT DEMARCHE PURSUANT TO AUTHORIZATION SET FORTH PARA TWO REF A.

4. I ALSO OBSERVED THAT THERE IS A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE VENEZUELAN POPULATION MADE UP OF CITIZENS OF ARAB ORIGIN, LARGELY FROM LEBANON AND SYRIA. THESE PEOPLE HAVE POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND GREAT ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE. IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT IF SHORTLY AFTER THE AMBASSADORIAL APPROACH TO CALVANI, WORD REACHED CALDERA THAT THE VENEZUELAN ARAB ELEMENT OF THE ELECTORATE WOULD BE GREATLY PLEASED IF CALDERA'S GOVERNMENT TOOK AFFIRMATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD CONTRIBUTING TO UNRWA, THIS MIGHT DO MUCH TO BRING OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME.

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